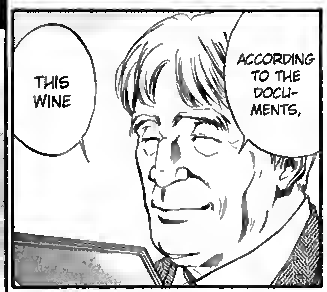
TL: NNNNNNN
CL/QC: VIN
TS: TKW, DIGITALHOARDER

IS PRODUCED IN AN ENERGETIC WINERY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF WATER, VENICE.
THEY MATURE THEIR GRAPES IN OAK BARRELS, WHICH PRODUCES AN UNUSUALLY WELL-BODIED WINE.
#34 Standoff in the Atrium

IS IT REALLY WORTH JUST A THOUSAND?
YOU'RE NOT PLAYING A TRICK ON US, RIGHT?
AH HA HA HA! DON'T BE SILLY, SIGNORINA.
HONMA CHOUSUKE WOULD NEVER ATTEMPT A DECEPTION LIKE THAT! IF I WERE, YOU'D KNOW IMMEDIATELY.


ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENTS,
THIS WINE

YOU'RE AN IDIOT FOR BRINGING A 1500 YEN WINE TO THIS CATEGORY!
HMPH! WHAT ABOUT IT?
A DIFFERENCE OF 300 YEN IN THIS PRICE RANGE IS THE SAME AS A TWO THOUSAND YEN DIFFERENCE IN THE TEN THOUSAND YEN RANGE.
H-HOW UNFAIR!
HMM... IT'S ONLY JUST WITHIN THE PRICE RANGE.
WITH TAX, THE PRICE ENDS UP AT 1995 YEN
THAT'S ALMOST IN THE TWO THOUSAND YEN BRACKET!
LOOK!
EVEN TOMINE ISSEI APPROVED OF IT.
I THINK IT'S ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE 5000 YEN ST. COSME.
DAMN IT
IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE FOR LOW-PRICE WINES...
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT
WELL, I THINK...
AND IN WHAT WAY DID HE "APPROVE" OF IT, SIGNORINA?
TSK, TSK, TSK.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL SERVE THE WHOLE BOTTLE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
IT WOULDN'T LAST 30 MINUTES, EVEN IF YOU DRANK IT BY THE GLASS!
HE HAD IT SERVED IN A GLASS WITH A MEAL ..
BAH. THAT IS INDEED THE RIGHT WAY TO ENJOY IT.
WITH A MEAL!
FRENCH WINES CAN BE ENJOYED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS,
BUT THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A DELICIOUS CONTRADA IN THIS CONTEST!

DAMN IT!
HMPH.
OH, IT'S HERE ALREADY
WILL THEY MAKE IT, THOUGH?
MS. KAWAMATA IF YOU DON'T MIND, TALLY THE VOTES
AND WRITE DOWN THE RESULT ON THE BOARD
GOT IT.
MIYABI, WHO'S IN THE LEAD?
OH NO!
ITALY IS, AND BY A LOT!
No. 1 Italy
France F
正正正T
DAMN!
MIYABI, BRING ME EVERY DECANTER THE WINE DIVISION HAS!
GOT IT!

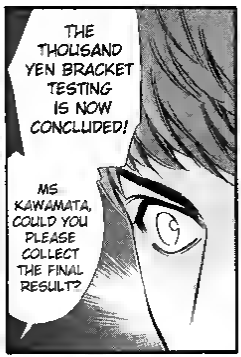
BAH! DECANT ALL YOU WANT, IT WON'T HELP YOU.
YOU'RE JUST OPENING A STIFF ST. COSME.
THERE'S NO RULE AGAINST IT.
NO,
RIGHT, BOSS?
DECANTING'S AGAINST THE RULES!
HEY!

W-WHAT A SHOWOFF!
OH HO...
I EXPECTED AS MUCH FROM THE SON OF KANZAKI YUTAKA.
A MARVELOUS DEMONSTRATION OF DECANTAGE FOR THE NEWCOMERS.
ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN AT THIS POINT.
I-IT WON'T!
MIYABI, GO POUR SOME GLASSES WHEN I'M DONE DECANTING!
OKAY!

THAT LITTLE PUNK...
THE FRENCH WINE IS CATCHING UP.
AS YOU CAN SEE,
WHAT?
MS KAWAMATA, WHAT'S THE SCORE?
JUST A BIT MORE AND WE'VE CAUGHT UP!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE, SHIZUKU!
YEAH. .
IT'S AS IF IT CASTS OFF A VEIL AND REVEALS ITS TRUE FRAGRANCE.
THE ST. COSME DOESN'T DISAPPOINT... ONCE IT'S DECANTED,

THIS WINE IS EXCELLENT!
I'M CERTAIN IT WON'T LOSE TO AN ITALIAN IN THE THOUSAND YEN BRACKET!
AT THIS RATE, WE'RE SURE TO CATCH UP TO THE ITALIAN WINE.

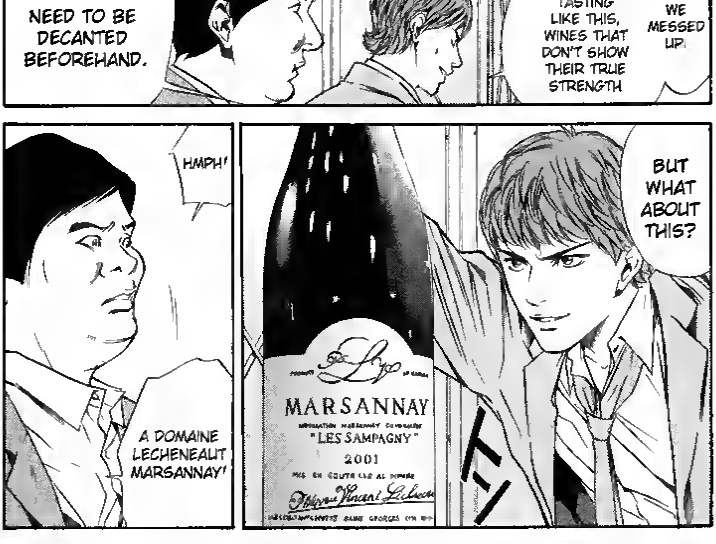
PLEASE CLEANSE YOUR PALATE AND WE'LL PROCEED WITH THE TWO THOUSAND YEN BRACKET
WELL THEN, EVERYONE


THE THOUSAND YEN BRACKET TESTING IS NOW CONCLUDED!
MS. KAWAMATA, COULD YOU PLEASE COLLECT THE FINAL RESULT?

THERE IS MORE TO COME, SO PLEASE WAIT.
THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
BUT NO. 2 HAD.. A SORT OF SPICY AROMA, I GUESS. IT HAS A LOT OF PERSONALITY.
I THINK I PREFER NO. 1 IT WAS SO EASY TO DRINK
MS. KAWAMATA, ARE YOU FINISHED YET?
JUST A MOMENT.
NO 1, ITALY
NO. 2, FRANCE
ITALY.
FRANCE
AND THE LAST ONE TO FRANCE
ITALY.
FRANCE.
FRANCE.
ITALY.
WHEW

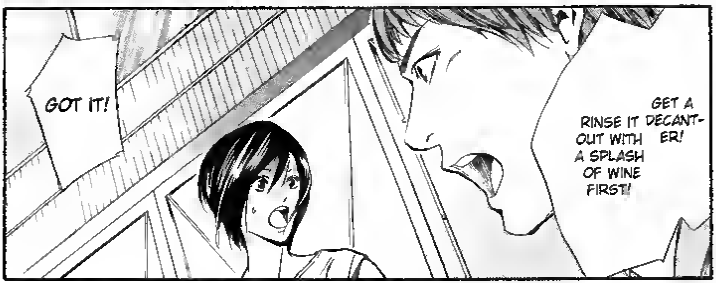
YOU MANAGED TO CATCH UP NEAR THE END, BUT ITALY STILL WON!
No 2 France
No. 1 Italy
...
OH HO HO HO, YOU LOST, YOU LOST!
I-TOLD-YOU-SO!

WE MESSED UP.
IN A WINE TASTING LIKE THIS, WINES THAT DON'T SHOW THEIR TRUE STRENGTH
NEED TO BE DECANTED BEFOREHAND.

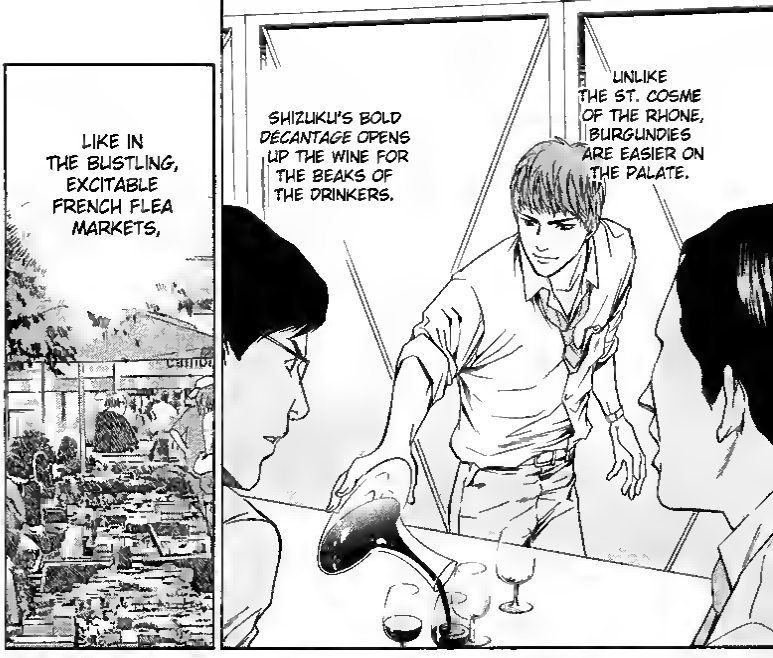

BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS?
MARSANNAY
"LES SAMPAGNY"
2001
HMPH!
A DOMAINE LECHENEAULT MARSANNAY!

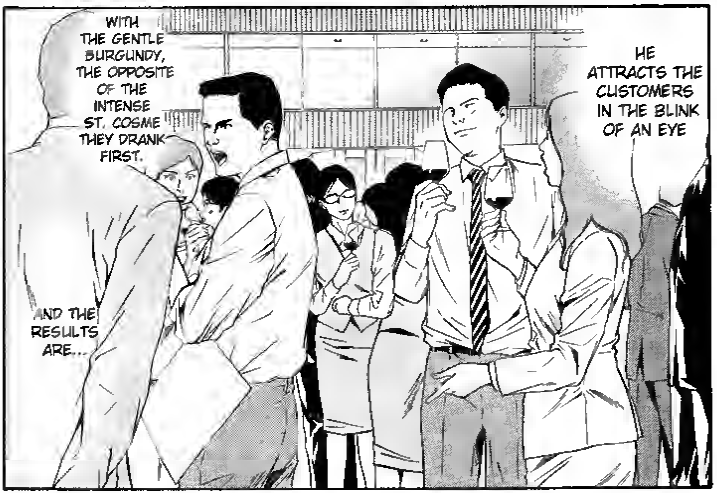
TL NOTE: AN EXTREMELY POPULAR VARIETY OF ITALIAN GRAPES

THE FLAGSHIP OF CASA VINICOLA DANGELO, CANNETO!
2000
CANNETO
DANGELO
NO FRENCH WINE IN THE TWO THOUSAND YEN RANGE CAN SURPASS THE SWEET BODY AND VELVETY SMOOTH-NESS
OF THIS WINE, PRESSED FROM AGLIANICO GRAPES GROWN IN THE BASILICATA REGION OF SOUTHERN ITALY!
I GUARANTEE IT!

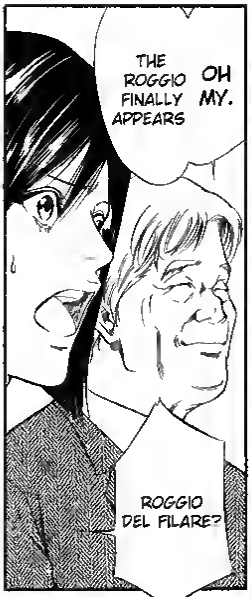

GET A DECANT-ER!
RINSE IT OUT WITH A SPLASH OF WINE FIRST!
GOT IT!

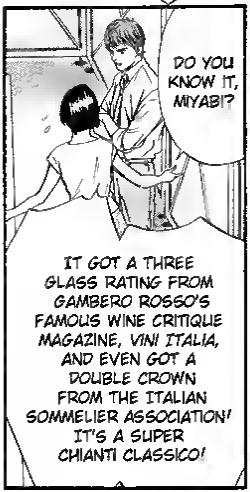
THE BATTLE FOR THE TWO THOUSAND YEN BRACKET
TURNED OUT MUCH LIKE THE THOUSAND YEN ONE.
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THE CANNETO WOULD TIP THE SCALES AGAINST US.
BUT ONCE OPENED, THE TRUE POWER OF DOMAINE LECHENAUT'S MARSANNAY TOOK HOLD
FOR THE MARSANNAY, THIS WAS ITS TIME TO SHINE.


LIKE IN THE BUSTLING, EXCITABLE FRENCH FLEA MARKETS,
SHIZUKU'S BOLD DÉCANTAGE OPENS UP THE WINE FOR THE BEAKS OF THE DRINKERS.
UNLIKE THE ST. COSME OF THE RHONE, BURGUNDIES ARE EASIER ON THE PALATE.


WITH THE GENTLE BURGUNDY, THE OPPOSITE OF THE INTENSE ST. COSME THEY DRANK FIRST.
HE ATTRACTS THE CUSTOMERS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE
AND THE RESULTS ARE...

IT SEEMS THAT FRANCE WON BY A HAIR.
No. 2
France
Italy
THIS IS ONLY HAPPENING BECAUSE NONE OF THEM UNDERSTAND THE ESSENCE OF ITALIAN WINE!
THE WINE TASTERS ARE ALL ABSOLUTE AMATEURS!
TCH!
IT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET THE EMPLOYEES TO GET USED TO WINE, THOUGH.
THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN THIS POPULAR ON PURPOSE. IT'S JUST DUMB LUCK.
WE DID IT!
WE CAN'T LET OUR GUARD DOWN, THOUGH!
WE ONLY BROKE EVEN!
HMPH!
THIS IS INDEED THE TIME FOR CELEBRATION!
BEHOLD! THIS IS THE WINE THAT I, HONMA CHOUSUKE, HAVE CHOSEN FOR THE 3000 YEN RANGE!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, BOLD AND RICH!


THE ROGGIO FINALLY APPEARS
OH MY.
ROGGIO DEL FILARE?


DO YOU KNOW IT, MIYABI?
IT GOT A THREE GLASS RATING FROM GAMBERO ROSSO'S FAMOUS WINE CRITIQUE MAGAZINE, VINI ITALIA, AND EVEN GOT A DOUBLE CROWN FROM THE ITALIAN SOMMELIER ASSOCIATION! IT'S A SUPER CHIANTI CLASSICO!

DESCENDING FROM THE BLUE SKIES, THE WINE ABOVE ALL ITALIAN WINES,
ROGGIO
ITS BOTTLE AS BRIGHT AS THE SUN!

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TASTE THIS WINE, MR. HONMA
SO I'VE BROUGHT IT
I TRUST MY INSTINCTS
RATINGS DON'T MATTER
YOU THINK YOUR FRENCH DREGS CAN STAND UP TO IT? HUH?
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S A THREE STAR ITALIAN WINE!
LET'S GET STARTED.
THIS WINE DOESN'T NEED ANY OF MY FANCY DECANTAGE
IT SILENTLY CHANGES IN THE GLASS.
!
COVERED IN THIS BLACK CLOTH.
YOU WON'T DRINK A FRENCH WINE IF YOU KNOW IT'S FRENCH,
BUT I WANT YOU TO CLOSE YOUR EYES AND TASTE THIS.
……

THE MYSTERIOUS AND ELEGANT BALLGOERS WHO INHABIT THIS WINE
WANT YOU TO TAKE THEM IN.
#34 END